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Issue #12

**Special Edition**

October 18, 1989

## 25th Anniversary of The Wilderness Act

**T**wenty five years ago, on September 3, 1964, the President signed the Wilderness Act, protecting 9.1 million acres of our country's untamed and beautiful land for present and future generations. Now, 25 years later, we as a nation celebrated this beginning of our National Wilderness Preservation System in many ways. The week of September 3-8 was proclaimed National Wilderness Week by President Bush; a National Wilderness Conference was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 11-14; and agencies and private organizations throughout the country celebrated this landmark with special activities.



*A scene in the Missoula Mountains Wilderness.*

Today nearly 91 million acres of land, managed by the Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are protected. This includes 32.5 million acres in national forests, 38.5 million acres in national parks, 19.3 million acres in national wildlife refuges, and 0.5 million acres in Bureau of Land Management land holdings.

### The Northern Region Celebrates

*by Jim Dolan, Recreation, Wilderness and Lands, Regional Office*

**W**ilderness management in the Northern Region is picking up steam and will gain momentum over the next years. This year's celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Wilderness Act has demonstrated the commitment of this Region to maintaining and improving our wildernesses.

For example each Forest has implemented an education program on their wilderness program for their own employees and the public. These are going very well.

Wilderness managers in Region One participated very actively in the recent National Wilderness Conference in Minneapolis with more speakers from this Region than any other. In addition, Seeley Lake Ranger District's bridge crew of the Lolo NF won the Chief's and the Interagency competition for the second

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## A Unique Wilderness Experience

by Sally Blevins, Wilderness Ranger, Red River District



**"B**ut, I'm afraid the deer might charge me." "And what about snakes?" "Hey, I'm getting the eye for garbage now!"

These are just a few of the comments heard on a 5-day wilderness backpacking trip with 12 to 15-year old kids from foster homes. The Casey Family Program has worked cooperatively in a cost-share program with the Red River District. The program was created by Jim Casey, co-founder of United Parcel Service. Losing his parents at an early age, the young, industrious Casey began a small delivery service with only a cardboard box. As Casey's business flourished, he shared his wealth with children who have experienced family tragedies similar to his own. A child in the Casey Family is entitled to health care, a college education, and summer camps or work programs such as the one at Red River District.



Tromping through the woods with a group of 13 energetic teenagers is not my idea of a typical wilderness experience, but it wasn't long before my heart went out to them as we worked, learned, and grew together. Many of the kids were from Louisiana and had never seen mountains, much less camped in them, but before long they had become junior wilderness rangers.

The staff accompanying the Casey children realizes the importance of developing social and emotional skills along

with a work ethic. They conduct daily discussions and campfire programs which can enrich the lives of anyone attending. One evening, after spending much of the day cleaning up a very old dump at a campsite, the activity involved asking group members some questions. One boy was asked what it was like when he and his dad had gone camping in the wilderness. He responded, "We always threw our garbage everywhere when we camped, and never thought about any-

one picking it up. Now that I know what it's like to have to clean it up, I'll never do that again. I'm going to tell my family to always pack it out, too." We responded with applause. That experience made my day!

During their week in wilderness, the kids obtained skills in minimal impact camping, using primitive tools, and they had the opportunity to experience personal renewal. The Forest Service greatly benefited through the cleanup efforts. The Casey kids cleared 21 miles of trail, picked up 2300 pounds of garbage, and naturalized campsites at 11 lakes and along the trails—work that may not have otherwise been achieved. The Casey Family groups have helped restore the wilderness character of the Gospel-Hump Wilderness and the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. They learned of the complexities of wilderness management, and took home a personal philosophy of wilderness.

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### The Northern Region Celebrates

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year running in the Primitive Skills competition. Deputy Chief James Overbay presented Foreman Jerry Printz with the Chief's Award, and then Retiree Bill Worf presented him with the Inter-agency Award, given by the American Wilderness Alliance.

Congressman Vento of Minnesota gave a hard-hitting speech at the conference urging the agencies to give more emphasis to wilderness and trails. Regional Forester John Mumma has already picked up on the need to improve our wilderness program and is emphasizing the need to better "take care of what we've got." This was the theme of the first wilderness conference in Moscow a few years ago. Congressman Vento, while critical of the lack of managing wilderness by the agencies, vowed to continue the fight for better funding. In his speech, this Region was singled out for some special mention,

such as the developing Wildlands Education Center at Nine-mile Remount Station, and the hosting by the Region of the National Wilderness Education Conference for line officers. This is to be held at the Ninemile Remount Station in May, 1990. Forest supervisors and recreation staffs are the target participants for this important conference.

In 1990 this Region will be hosting part of the National Wilderness Review by the Chief's Office; the first one to be conducted in the decade.

What all this means is that the Northern Region is on the cutting edge of the many aspects of wilderness management and will be looking ahead to expand our efforts and expertise in "Taking Care Of What We've Got."

## Sharing The Wilderness Spirit

by Madelyn Kempf, Public Affairs Assistant

**T**he Flathead NF decided to begin the focus on wilderness awareness right at home — with its own employees. To increase their awareness of the wilderness resource and its management, the Forest recently held a Wilderness Day Workshop. The purpose of the workshop, arranged by the Forest Wilderness 25th Anniversary Committee, was to enhance all Forest employees' understanding and awareness of wilderness management, to improve information sharing — both within the agency and in visitor contacts.

Participants were provided with mini-sessions on the Wilderness Act; the wilderness resource on the Flathead NF; fire and wildlife "management" in wilderness; spirit of the wilderness; wilderness ecology; and the Bob Marshall Wilderness complex.

*Photos by Madelyn Kempf.*



*Above: Wilderness Ranger Gordon Ash (right) "supervises" as Packer Bill Workman adjusts the load on a slightly disinterested "old timer" during Wilderness Day on the Flathead NF. Both are employees from Spotted Bear Ranger District.*

*Left: Hungry Horse District Forestry Technician Craig Lang boasts of the spacious accommodations which wilderness trail crews call "home!"*





## Wilderness Fires

by Marcia Hogan, Public Affairs Specialist

**T**his past summer hundreds of people walked the Scapegoat Wilderness pondering the impact of last year's fire. And in those thoughts and footsteps, many confronted their understanding of wilderness.

In the summer of 1988, the Canyon Creek Fire burned for three months, encircling a quarter million acres. The fire left large expanses of burned trees. For many, this is not what they want to see when visiting wilderness. They prefer green forests. But that implies a static environment — one where the cycle of nature does not operate. That is not wilderness.

In nature, fires do not burn "too hot" or "too big." Those are judgements humans make. Even when fires burn inside wilderness or park boundaries, people often prefer more benign fires than the Canyon Creek Fire.

In order to manage wilderness fire we need to understand not only fire science, but also our own feelings and attitudes. Both influence our willingness to preserve natural processes which are the heart of wilderness.

Perhaps the Canyon Creek Fire is nature's gift on this 25th Wilderness Anniversary. It is teaching us about the natural world as we conduct ecological studies in the burn. It is also teaching lessons about our cultural expectations for nature. Ultimately these lessons teach us about ourselves.

The Lolo NF offered six Canyon Creek Fire tours to the general public this past summer, and another six tours to special groups. Pictured here are employees touring the burn during Wilderness Week.



Evelyn Partaker, personnel assistant, and Rebecca Ondov, wilderness guard and tour guide, stand at the entrance to the Scapegoat Wilderness.  
Photo by Deanna Riebe.



Photo by Linda Bowers



Tour guide Rebecca Ondov leads an employee tour group over the Hobnall Tom Trail into the Scapegoat Wilderness. Rebecca was in the area during the fire last summer, working for a packer. Photo by Deanna Riebe.

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## Wilderness Anniversary at Wise River District

*by Jack DeGolia, Public Affairs Specialist*

To mark the 25th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, the Beaverhead's Wise River District undertook a number of projects in the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness.

The major one was the annual joint trail project with surrounding ranger districts. The "AP" Wilderness lies in the Beaverhead, Deerlodge, and Bitterroot NFs. Every year, the Wisdom, Phillipsburg, Sula, and Wise River Districts join forces for a major project in the AP.

This year was Wise River's turn. During the week of August 7, crews worked on the West Fork of Fishtrip Creek Trail, rebuilding the trail. Fifteen trail crew persons built five corduroy bridges, completed six sections of turnpiking, and relocated a mile of the trail out of wet, boggy areas. Bridge decking for this project was packed in by the Regional Pack String in the summer of 1988. Supplies for the trail crews were packed in seven miles to a base camp.

Under the joint project program, when a district's turn comes up (once every four years) that district staff finds the area needing work and supplies the materials and food for the crews. This program allows trail crews from the different districts to get together to share knowledge in trail construction and trail maintenance techniques. It has proven very beneficial in getting work done that may be too extensive for a

single district trail crew, but would not meet the criteria for being funded as a capital investment project. The program is also a great "esprit de corps" and morale booster for trail crews.

Nearby, on the Continental Divide Trail, a crew of six from the Student Conservation Association and their two leaders spent five weeks in July and August rebuilding a mile of trail. Part of this work included construction of five corduroy bridges of 12 to 25 feet in length.

And finally, Wise River District's retired wilderness mule, "Parrot," came out of retirement on Labor Day to march with his handler, Dave Mason, in the Dillon Jaycee's annual parade. Parrot, 35 or 36, carried a sign proclaiming the 25th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Parrot worked in the AP 30 years.

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*Wilderness  
rocky enormous  
growing comforting blowing  
an amazing wild place  
outdoors*

*A Group Poem  
by Casey Family Children*

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### Bitterroot, Lolo, Clearwater, and Nez Perce National Forests

## Wilderness Planning With The Public

*by Lisa Therrell, Moose Creek District, Nez Perce NF*

The Bitterroot, Lolo, Clearwater, and Nez Perce NFs are working cooperatively with a 43-member citizens' task force to develop a Limits-of-Acceptable-Change (LAC) plan for the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. The plan will result in coordinated wilderness management between Forests, and will prevent degradation of wilderness quality.

Using a citizen's task force results in balanced planning, and public ownership in sound management of the wilderness resource. The task force represents a broad spectrum of interests and expertise, such as conservation groups, outfitter guides, backcountry horsemen, pilots, fish and game departments, and provides management recommendations to the forest supervisors, who are responsible for the final decision.

The planning process is about half completed; the task force is currently reviewing first-draft Opportunity Class maps with their constituents, and recommending further revisions.

### Kootenai National Forest

## Wilderness T-shirts For Sale

Kootenai NF employees are selling Cabinet Mountains Wilderness T-shirts in celebration of the Wilderness Act's 25th anniversary. Proceeds from the sales will go into the employees' scholarship fund, which last year provided \$2,000 in scholarships for local high school students. So far, 164 wilderness shirts have been sold and \$472 has been received toward Libby scholarships.

The Lincoln County Sheltered Workshop, which employs developmentally disabled individuals, orders and silk screens the T-shirts. Available in any color (also neons), shirt sizes range from infants to extra-extra large. Anyone interested in ordering may contact Norma Bauer on the Kootenai NF.

## A Wilderness Skills Project

*by Peter Deane, Resource Technician, Powell Ranger District*



One of the objectives of a special wilderness skills project on Powell District was to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the 1964 Wilderness Act. Primitive skills and tools were used to perform maintenance on the Fishlake cabin, airstrip and adjacent trails. Another objective was to incorporate Special Use Permittees (outfitters) and other members of the general public as volunteers to work together with Forest Service personnel on the project. In addition, fireside talks were held to discuss a variety of opinions concerning wilderness, wilderness airstrips, and the management of wilderness.

All participants in the two sessions held (26 people participated in the first session, 16 in the second) walked or rode horses to Fishlake, a 17 mile-trip up Boulder Creek Trail.

Tim Craig, of Boulder Creek Outfitters, volunteered the transport of participants, gear, tools and supplies to the work site, via his guides and stock. Kurt Overholt, a nationally recognized builder of hand-crafted log homes, and Powell District's head of maintenance, Dale Swee, donated their time and skills while taking the lead in the replacement of the cabin's rotten sill logs. Blackfeet tribal member and Powell District's wilderness ranger Woodrow Kipp, volunteered the use of his two Belgian draft horses, Uke and Sandman, to skid the new sill logs to the cabin site. Kipp, who has horse-logged in the past, provided the expertise needed in the safe use and care of these huge animals.

The project was the idea of Resource Technicians Pete Deane and Dennis Elliott, and District Ranger Margie Ewing.

Retired Director of Recreation, Wilderness & Lands for Region One, Bill Worf, who is currently the president of Wilderness Watch, a group that looks after established wildernesses, conducted evening fireside talks on wilderness management and philosophy. Worf, who headed the Forest Service's wilderness program in Washington D.C. from 1965 to 1969 and helped establish policy and regulations for the 1964 Wilderness Act, said he felt the District's project was a "real fine example of teaching about wilderness through hands-on experience," and said more projects like this should be taking place. Worf was especially pleased to see Forest Service employees participating who were not familiar with the use of primitive tools and wilderness policies and management.

Other individuals who volunteered their time and talents included Lois Crepeau, an active member of Missoula's Wednesday Outdoors Women's Group, and her husband, Joe; and Cort Duce, a student at Missoula Hellgate High School, who documented the project through photography for the District's archives. Other volunteers cleared trails with cross-cut saws, felled timber with axes, used the horse-drawn spring tooth harrow to rehabilitate barren spots on the airstrip, cleaned up campsites in the area, and dug a new pit for the cabin outhouse.

Powell District personnel feel this was a very successful project and plan to continue having an annual project dealing with wilderness. It gave employees a chance to educate, not only members of the public, but fellow employees who are not fully aware of the challenge in managing their wildernesses.

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### Lolo National Forest

## A Wilderness Quiz

*by Deanna Riebe, Editor*

Did you know there are 15 wildernesses in Montana? And that they include 3,437,000 acres — roughly 4% of the land area in Montana? Did you know that in addition to the Forest Service, National Parks, the Bureau of Land Management, and National Wildlife Refuges also have wildernesses?

This is some of the information you can gain when you use the new "touch screen" wilderness quiz recently developed by Lolo NF. A question appears on a monitor screen, along with several choices for answers. All the user need do is touch the screen on the selected answer, and the next screen will tell you whether you were right or wrong, and give you more information. Outstanding graphics, maps and pictures enhance the program and the learning process.

The wilderness quiz includes questions about what kind of activities are permitted in wilderness, what government agencies are involved in wilderness, and what a wilderness is. Besides being educational, the touch screen is a fun way to

learn.

Jerry Covault, from the Forest, was behind getting the equipment and software, and Terry Egenhoff developed the program and graphics. The wilderness quiz is the first of several programs planned. Eventually the Forest's campground facilities, picnic areas, and trails will all be described on the screen, just as in brochures that will accompany the touch screen display. The Forest is creating a family of pocket-size brochures, all with a similar look, covering trails, history, driving tours, mountain biking, etc. "We're trying to parallel the brochures with the touch screen," said Covault. "This is part of an overall effort to update all recreation information on the Forest," he said.

The moveable touch-screen computer can be easily moved and set up in shopping malls, at fairgrounds, or anywhere the Forest wants to display information. Covault said, "The touch screen program creates a Ranger Station wherever it is."



## Seeley Lake District Wins Primitive Skills Award

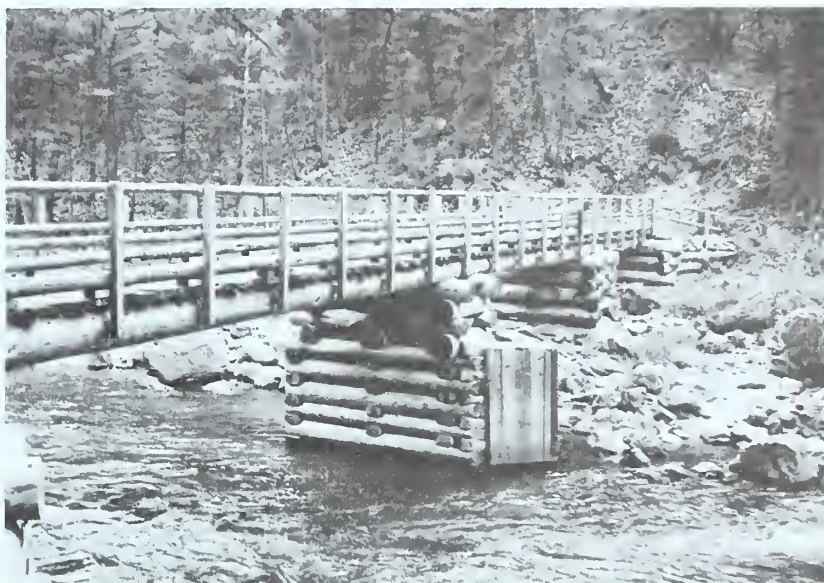
*by Andrea Barcia, Student Forestry Trainee, Seeley Lake District*

**A** District decision to build a new pack bridge with native materials and primitive tools has proven to be very rewarding. This summer Seeley Lake Ranger District's bridge crew received the 1988 Northern Region Primitive Skills Award for replacing the old North Fork Bridge with a new one. The crew also won the Chief's 1988 Primitive Skills Award and the American Wilderness Alliance's Pioneer Skills Award. All awards applaud the use of traditional tools and skills on backcountry work projects.

The North Fork Bridge is on the Hobnail Tom Trail, one of the most popular trails in the Scapegoat Wilderness. The work involved dismantling the old bridge; felling trees with crosscut saws and skidding them to the bridge site with a draft horse; converting the trees into bridge materials for stringers, piers, abutments, and cribs; and finally constructing the bridge with hand tools.

Throughout the summer, the Canyon Creek Fire played havoc with the bridge crew. The fire moved through the area on July 28th, burning the crew's camp and some of the bridge materials.

This is the second year the Seeley Lake bridge crew has won the "triple crown." Last year the District won the same three awards for the construction of Smoke's Cabin Bridge, also in the Scapegoat Wilderness. Bridge crew members are Jerry Printz (foreman),



North Fork Bridge in the Scapegoat Wilderness.  
Photo by Deanna Riebe.

Joe Foster, Tony Drahos, Rick Reynolds, Merlin McBride, and John Hefferman. Support crew members were Keith Schultz and Rob Holden. The supply crew included Randy Borniger, Ernie Lundberg, and Dean Solheim; Don Yeran was a draft horse expert. District support staff included Jim Blackburn and Jim DeHerrera.

## Personnel Actions

### BEAVERHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

BLACKWELL, REX, suprvy civil eng, reass, Routt NF, SO, Beaverhead NF  
TEUBER, KURT, rsrch frstr, reass, Southern Forest Experiment Station,  
to frstr, SO Beaverhead NF  
TUCKER, CAROLYN, YCC leader, cash award, Wisdom RD

### FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

BOSICK, MARY, pers clk, SO, promoted to vouch exam  
BREWER, KEN, frstr, Hungry Horse RD, promotion  
BROOKS, RANDY, elec engr, SO, suggestion award  
BURNETT, NANCY, acct trainee, SO, promotion, acct in B&A, SO  
CRABTREE, GLADYS, supp serv spvr, Hungry Horse RD, prom comp  
spec, SO  
CRAWFORD, DONNA, clk typ, Swan Lake RD, reassign to procur clk, SO  
DAVIES, DICK, frstry tech, Glacier View RD, promoted  
FLYNN, CONNIE, supp serv supv, Tally Lake RD, prom adm offcr, Glacier  
View RD  
HANSON, SANDRA, purch agnt, Glacier View RD, promotion  
HICKLE, ROD, frstry techncn, Glacier View RD, promotion  
HILL, LIZ, co-op ed appt, Hungry Horse RD  
HILLARD, LINDA, promoted to resource clk, Tally Lake RD  
JOHNSON, SUE, reass fr Spotted Bear outftr guide asst to Resrce Clk  
Hungry Horse RD  
LA FROMBOISE, DONALD, co-op ed appt, Spotted Bear RD

MANNING, VIENNA, computer asst, promoted pers asst, SO  
MAVENCAMP, KARY, SO, elec techncn, promotion  
MULLINS, DARLENE, supp serv supv, Idaho Panhandle, prom to adm  
offcr, Hungry Horse RD  
PITCHER, DARV, frstry tech, retirement, Glacier View RD.  
ROOS, DOREEN, SO, info serv, reassign, pub info recep, Tally Lake RD  
SCOTT, LAVERNE, supp serv supv, Glacier View RD, prom to adm offcr,  
Swan Lake RD  
SMITH, KRISTIN, comp asst, Bitterroot NF, prom comp prgm analyst, SO  
SNYDER, CAROLYN, prog asst in Planning, SO, promoted computer asst  
SOBCZAK, CARL, frstr, Lolo NF, reassign to Tally Lake RD  
STANLEY, GAIL, clk typ, Glacier View RD, promoted purch agnt  
TARLTON, DEBRA, clk typ, SO, reass to Timber, Lands & Minerals, SO  
TROTTER, TIM, frstr, Tally Lake RD, reassign to Bitterroot NF  
WARREN, GREG, frstr, RO, reassign to Dist Ranger, Spotted Bear RD  
WITT, JEANNE, clk typ, SO, reinstated

### GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST

BRUNKHORST, MARCIA, bus mgmt clk, resignation, SO  
DIXON, BEVERLY, carto tech, cash award, SO  
GIBSON, DEBBIE, pers clk, promotion to pers asst, SO  
IRVINE, MARGIE, pers clk, promotion to pers asst, SO  
SPEARSON, CAROL, pers mgmt spec, promotion, SO  
TIMKO, BILL, ranger, Big Timber, August employee of the month.

## Window on Wilderness

by Shelley Dumas, Moose Creek Ranger District



**I**t's 0430 and the packer shakes loose from his bunk and shrugs off the cover of night. Earlier in the summer the gold of dawn would be pushing at the gray sky by now, but it's September 3, and mornings have shown increasing reluctance to rise. He hitches up his britches and pulls on hard leather over cold socks...but the boots stay unlaced for this quick sojourn into the crackling coolness. While his eyes adjust to the pre-dawn darkness and his mind adjusts to another day, he listens for the muffled sounds of hoof thud on dew-muted grass. In the distance is the dim outline of the horses and mules grazing on the airstrip. He slices the silence with a whistle, but the lack of quick response necessitates breaking the quiet with a sing-song bellow of "Here Mules!!!"

Heads pop up. With habit borne of repetition and reward, the stock saunter up and across the strip to the corral for their morning ration of oats



*Moose Creek Ranger District Packer Don Esslinger puts the finishing touches on Lightfoot.*

and pellets, although their bellies are pret' near full with green feed.

On the loading dock are fourteen roughly uniform canvas packets, pre-mantied the night before. After breakfast pancakes and with polished hustle, he saddles his big black riding mule, hefts the traditional Deckers on the seven pack mules and adjusts each load with the touch and precision of experience. With a final gulp of tepid coffee, he mounts up and heads his string down the Selway River trail with return-trip supplies. It's September 3 and the 25th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. The resurrection of the weekly main-line mule string is a reality...as is the resultant drastic reduction of administrative air flights into the historic Moose Creek Ranger Station. A perfect resource gift. Happy Anniversary, Wilderness!! And may there be many more!!!

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